

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall issue regulations to carry out the exceptions under paragraphs (1) through (6).

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 302, noes 125, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 172]

AYES—302

Abercrombie	Cooper	Grijalva
Ackerman	Costa	Gutierrez
Alexander	Costello	Hall (NY)
Allen	Courtney	Hare
Altmire	Cramer	Harman
Andrews	Crowley	Hastings (FL)
Arcuri	Cuellar	Hayes
Baca	Cummings	Heller
Baird	Davis (AL)	Herseth
Baker	Davis (CA)	Higgins
Baldwin	Davis (IL)	Hill
Barrow	Davis (KY)	Hinche
Bean	Davis, Lincoln	Hinojosa
Becerra	Davis, Tom	Hirono
Berkley	DeFazio	Hobson
Berman	DeGette	Hodes
Berry	Delahunt	Holden
Biggart	DeLauro	Holt
Bilirakis	Dent	Honda
Bishop (GA)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hooley
Bishop (NY)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hoyer
Blumenauer	Dicks	Inslee
Boren	Dingell	Israel
Boswell	Doggett	Jackson (IL)
Boucher	Donnelly	Jackson-Lee
Boustany	Doyle	(TX)
Boyd (FL)	Edwards	Jefferson
Boyd (KS)	Ehlers	Jindal
Brady (PA)	Ellison	Johnson (GA)
Brady (TX)	Ellsworth	Johnson (IL)
Braley (IA)	Emanuel	Jones (NC)
Brown, Corrine	Emerson	Jones (OH)
Buchanan	Engel	Kagen
Burgess	English (PA)	Kaptur
Butterfield	Eshoo	Kennedy
Buyer	Etheridge	Kildee
Capito	Farr	Kilpatrick
Capps	Fattah	Kind
Capuano	Ferguson	King (NY)
Cardoza	Filter	Kirk
Carnahan	Fortenberry	Klein (FL)
Carney	Frank (MA)	Knollenberg
Carson	Frelinghuysen	Kucinich
Castle	Gerlach	Kuhl (NY)
Castor	Giffords	LaHood
Chandler	Gilchrest	Lampson
Clarke	Gillibrand	Langevin
Clay	Gillmor	Lantos
Cleaver	Gonzalez	Larsen (WA)
Clyburn	Gordon	Larson (CT)
Cohen	Green, Al	Latham
Conyers	Green, Gene	LaTourette

Lee	Obey	Shuler
Levin	Olver	Simpson
Lewis (CA)	Ortiz	Sires
Lewis (GA)	Pallone	Skelton
Lipinski	Pascrell	Slaughter
LoBiondo	Pastor	Smith (NJ)
Loeb sack	Payne	Smith (WA)
Lofgren, Zoe	Perlmuter	Snyder
Lowe y	Peterson (MN)	Solis
Lynch	Pickering	Space
Mahoney (FL)	Platts	Spratt
Maloney (NY)	Poe	Stark
Markey	Pomeroy	Stupak
Marshall	Porter	Sutton
Matheson	Price (NC)	Tanner
Matsui	Pryce (OH)	Tauscher
McCarthy (NY)	Rahall	Taylor
McCaul (TX)	Ramstad	Thompson (CA)
McCollum (MN)	Rangel	Thompson (MS)
McCrery	Regula	Tierney
McDermott	Reichert	Towns
McGovern	Renzi	Udall (CO)
McHugh	Reyes	Udall (NM)
McIntyre	Reynolds	Upton
McMorris	Rodriguez	Van Hollen
Rodgers	Rogers (KY)	Velázquez
McNerney	Rogers (MI)	Visclosky
McNulty	Ros-Lehtinen	Walden (OR)
Meehan	Ross	Walsh (NY)
Meek (FL)	Rothman	Walz (MN)
Meeks (NY)	Roybal-Allard	Wasserman
Melancon	Ruppersberger	Schultz
Michaud	Rush	Waters
Millender-	Ryan (OH)	Watson
McDonald	Salazar	Watt
Miller (NC)	Sánchez, Linda	Waxman
Miller, George	T.	Weiner
Mitchell	Sanchez, Loretta	Welch (VT)
Mollohan	Sarbanes	Weller
Moore (KS)	Saxton	Wexler
Moore (WI)	Schakowsky	Whitfield
Moran (VA)	Schiff	Wicker
Murphy (CT)	Schwartz	Wilson (NM)
Murphy, Patrick	Scott (GA)	Wilson (OH)
Murphy, Tim	Scott (VA)	Wolf
Murtha	Serrano	Woolsey
Nadler	Sestak	Wu
Napolitano	Shays	Wynn
Neal (MA)	Shea-Porter	Yarmuth
Nunes	Sherman	
Oberstar	Shimkus	

NOES—125

Aderholt	Foxx	Moran (KS)
Akin	Franks (AZ)	Musgrave
Bachmann	Gallagher	Myrick
Bachus	Garrett (NJ)	Neugebauer
Barrett (SC)	Gingrey	Paul
Bartlett (MD)	Gohmert	Pearce
Barton (TX)	Goode	Peterson (PA)
Bibb	Goodlatte	Petri
Bishop (UT)	Granger	Pitts
Blackburn	Graves	Price (GA)
Blunt	Hall (TX)	Putnam
Boehner	Hastert	Radanovich
Bonner	Hastings (WA)	Rehberg
Bono	Hensarling	Rogers (AL)
Boozman	Herger	Rohrabacher
Brown (SC)	Hoekstra	Roskam
Brown-Waite,	Hulshof	Royce
Ginny	Hunter	Ryan (WI)
Burton (IN)	Inglis (SC)	Sali
Calvert	Issa	Schmidt
Camp (MI)	Johnson, Sam	Sensenbrenner
Campbell (CA)	Jordan	Sessions
Cannon	Keller	Shadegg
Cantor	King (IA)	Shuster
Carter	Kingston	Smith (NE)
Chabot	Kline (MN)	Smith (TX)
Coble	Lamborn	Souder
Cole (OK)	Lewis (KY)	Stearns
Conaway	Linder	Sullivan
Crenshaw	Lucas	Tancredo
Cubin	Lungren, Daniel	Terry
Culberson	E.	Thornberry
Davis, David	Mack	Tiahrt
Doolittle	Manzullo	Tiberi
Drake	Marchant	Turner
Dreier	McCarthy (CA)	Walberg
Duncan	McCotter	Wamp
Everett	McHenry	Weldon (FL)
Fallon	McKeon	Westmoreland
Feeney	Mica	Wilson (SC)
Flake	Miller (FL)	Young (AK)
Forbes	Miller (MI)	
Fossella	Miller, Gary	

NOT VOTING—6

Davis, Jo Ann	Johnson, E. B.	Pence
Deal (GA)	Kanjorski	Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RA-HALL) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1451

Mr. HALL of Texas changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

HAWAIIAN HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2007

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 835) to reauthorize the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing assistance for Native Hawaiians.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 835

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2007”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE.

Section 824 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4243), as added by section 513 of Public Law 106-569 (114 Stat. 2969), is amended by striking “fiscal years” and all that follows and inserting the following: “fiscal years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.”.

SEC. 3. LOAN GUARANTEES FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING.

Section 184A of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z-13b), as added by section 514 of Public Law 106-569 (114 Stat. 2989), is amended as follows:

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In subsection (j)(7), by striking “fiscal years” and all that follows and inserting the following: “fiscal years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.”.

(2) AUTHORITY.—In subsection (b), by striking “or as a result of a lack of access to private financial markets”.

(3) ELIGIBLE HOUSING.—In subsection (c), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following new paragraph:

“(2) ELIGIBLE HOUSING.—The loan will be used to construct, acquire, refinance, or rehabilitate 1- to 4-family dwellings that are standard housing and are located on Hawaiian Home Lands.”.

SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS FOR TITLE VI LOAN GUARANTEES.

Title VI of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4191 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) **HEADING.**—In the heading for the title, by inserting “**AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN**” after “**TRIBAL**”.

(2) **AUTHORITY AND REQUIREMENTS.**—In section 601 (25 U.S.C. 4191)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by inserting “or by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,” after “tribal approval,”; and

(ii) by inserting “or 810, as applicable,” after “section 202”; and

(B) in subsection (c), by inserting “or VIII, as applicable” before the period at the end.

(3) **SECURITY AND REPAYMENT.**—In section 602 (25 U.S.C. 4192)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “or housing entity” and inserting “, housing entity, or Department of Hawaiian Home Lands”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by inserting “or Department” after “tribe”; and

(II) by inserting “or VIII, as applicable,” after “title I”; and

(III) by inserting “or 811(b), as applicable” before the semicolon; and

(B) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “or housing entity” and inserting “, housing entity, or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands”.

(4) **PAYMENT OF INTEREST.**—In the first sentence of section 603 (25 U.S.C. 4193), by striking “or housing entity” and inserting “, housing entity, or the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands”.

(5) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CREDIT SUBSIDY.**—In section 605(b) (25 U.S.C. 4195(b)), by striking “1997 through 2007” and inserting “2008 through 2012”.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to introduce the real author of this legislation, a gentleman who has worked very, very hard on the Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2007, an extremely important bill that will provide housing for Native Hawaiians who have been without decent, safe and secure housing for far too long. I commend the gentleman for all of the work that he has put into this act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) such time as he may consume.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that some of the misconceptions or misperceptions that might be

out there can be alleviated, because I don't believe that this should be considered a controversial bill in any way. There are some issues with respect to questions about favoritism or reverse discrimination, et cetera. Some of these issues have been raised in other contexts.

But in this particular instance, simply because the word or the phrase Native Hawaiian is attached, I hope that it doesn't confuse the issue. I have just had the opportunity to speak with Mr. BOEHNER, and I believe that we have an understanding about what is at stake here.

Let me make very, very clear what we are talking about. It reauthorizes a Native Hawaiian housing block grant through 2012. Now, these funds are used for infrastructure development and homeownership assistance under a program that is administered by the State of Hawaii as the result of Federal legislation in the last century. The bill that is on the floor today did not originate with Representative HIRONO or myself, but is as a result of the request of the Hawaiian Homes Commission and its chairman, under the leadership of Governor Lingle, Governor Linda Lingle, who is a Republican.

The reason I bring that up is not to cite that for special consideration, but rather that this is not a Democrat and Republican issue. This is an institutional issue that whoever is Governor, and whoever are the commissioners, in this instance happen to be Republican, appointed by a Republican Governor. Those folks are obligated institutionally to bring these issues to the Congress for final adjudication because of the unique status, the unique legal status of the Hawaiian Home Lands.

The Hawaiian Home Lands were created by the Congress as a result of legislation put forward by the original delegate from the Hawaiian Islands to the Congress, Prince Kuhio, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, for whom the Federal building is named where I have my offices in Honolulu, the PJKK. Mr. RENZI may refer to the PJKK Federal Building. He was a Republican at the time, and as a result of his presentation, the original Hawaiian Home Lands were created.

It enables Hawaiian families on Hawaiian Home Lands under this unique legal status to be able to acquire private financing they otherwise can't get because they are under this legal admonition to go through the Hawaiian Homes Commission. So it allows the Hawaiian Home Lands, the Department, to be eligible for loan guarantees to borrow, issue bonded debt, enabling servicing up to five times their annual allocation.

This allows the Department to service low-income families without a large increase in Federal appropriations. That's the whole idea of it. It allows low-income Hawaiians to get their refinancing in addition to construction. It reduces the cost of homeownership, and it reduced risk by lowering monthly

mortgage payments. That is what this is about. It's no special consideration. It is fulfilling the law as it exists.

Mr. RENZI. Thank you very much. I want to thank the gentleman from Hawaii and your colleagues for your leadership on this issue and your camaraderie in helping all Native Americans pushing forward in homeownership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 835, the Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2007. This bill is a reauthorization of title 8 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act commonly known as the NAHASDA. It's administered by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and this provides native low-income families the opportunity for homeownership on Hawaiian Home Lands.

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act was passed in 1996. It reauthorized a system of housing assistance provided to tribes throughout the Department of Housing and Urban Development by creating the Indian Housing Block Grant program, which provides funds directly to tribes for housing services as determined by the tribes themselves.

In 2000, the NAHASDA was amended to include title 8 so that Native Hawaiians could receive block grant funding as well through a separate grant, the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant, which funds vital housing programs only on Hawaiian Home Lands through the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, a Federal agency established by Congress in 1921 to administer trust land in Hawaii.

Title 8 funding has allowed the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to target assistance at families at or below 80 percent of the median income. This funding is used for such assistance as infrastructure development, as my colleague Mr. ABERCROMBIE talked about, Habitat for Humanity in Hawaii, down payment assistance programs, self-help home repair programs and financial literacy programs.

□ 1500

Title 8 of the NAHASDA was originally authorized for 5 years through 2005, and has not been formally reauthorized since. Although appropriation acts have continued to provide de facto 1-year authorizations for this program, this bill will reauthorize the program through fiscal year 2012.

In addition to reauthorization, the bill makes two changes to existing law. First, it makes the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands eligible for loan guarantees authorized under title 6 in the NAHASDA. Giving the Department title 6 assets would allow the Department to help more low-income families become homeowners, without a large increase in Federal appropriations, by partnering with private markets.

Second, this legislation allows Native Hawaiians the use of HUD section 184(a) guaranteed loans for refinancing in addition to construction. Adding the

refinancing authority reduces the cost of homeownership for low-income families and can also reduce risk by lowering monthly mortgage payments.

Congress must continue to embrace initiatives such as the one we are currently considering that encourages Americans to own a home.

Again, I would like to thank Mr. ABERCROMBIE and his colleagues from Hawaii, and I thank Chairman WATERS on our subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) 5 minutes.

Ms. HIRONO. I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 835, the Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act, which reauthorizes the Hawaiian Home Lands Homeownership Act of 2000. The act assists the State of Hawaii's Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, or DHHL, to provide opportunities for homeownership for low-income Native Hawaiians.

In 1921, Congress passed the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act with the purpose of establishing a homesteading program to place eligible Native Hawaiians on lands in Hawaii designated for such purpose. The law was passed at the urging of the Territory of Hawaii's Delegate to Congress, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole. Some 200,000 acres were set aside for the purpose of providing Native Hawaiians with land.

With the passage of the Statehood Act of 1959, the control and administration of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was transferred to the newly formed State of Hawaii. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands was created in 1960 to administer the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. The mission of the Department is to "manage the Hawaiian Home Lands trust effectively and to develop and deliver land to Native Hawaiians."

Despite the good intentions of the Congress, progress of meeting the goal of delivering land to Native Hawaiians was slow. Most of the Hawaiian Home Lands were located in areas far from jobs, and infrastructure such as roads and utilities were nonexistent. Many individuals were on waiting lists for more than 30 years.

The Hawaiian Home Lands Homeownership Act of 2000 has provided the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands with much-needed resources to expand opportunities for home ownership among low-income Native Hawaiians. Especially critical has been the ability to use these funds to develop the infrastructure that makes placing homes on these properties possible.

I urge my colleagues to support reauthorization of this important program, and I thank the Chairs, Barney Frank and Maxine Waters, for their leadership in bringing this bill to a vote.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. I yield 5 minutes to Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA.

(Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California and my good friend the gentleman from Arizona for their management of this important legislation, especially for the needs of our Native Hawaiian people.

This bill is simply to reauthorize this program to provide for the housing needs of our Native Hawaiian community in Hawaii, this bill, since its first authorization started in 1996. I do want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), and my colleague Ms. HIRONO for their leadership in bringing this legislation forward.

Unbeknownst to many of our colleagues here in the House, and especially also in the Senate, I might say, there are approximately 400,000 Native Hawaiians living in our country today. They are the largest indigenous group among our fellow Americans who live in this country. And I want to say that, as someone who has lived with the Native Hawaiian people in the State of Hawaii in my youth, I can testify and say personally that this program definitely is of tremendous need to meet the housing needs of our Native Hawaiian people.

I can also share with my colleagues, despite all the advertisements and the beautiful islands that we see on television and the ads that we see, and the islands are beautiful, I must say, but there is also another part of the State that I would like to share with my colleagues that the tremendous needs of the Native Hawaiians is exactly the same as the situation with the Native American community. They are the worst when it comes to their health needs. All the social and economic problems that we are faced with for our Native American community is exactly the situation that we are faced with our Native Hawaiian people.

Unbeknownst to our colleagues again, if I might add, Mr. Speaker, the people of Hawaii indigenous to the State of Hawaii, many of the people of our country do not know that there was a sovereign and independent nation of Hawaii that was ruled by a series of kings which started from the great King Kamehameha. From 1800, for some 19 years, he ruled his people, and on to the legacy of the King Kamehameha and his dynasty, which he founded for about 100 years before U.S. Marines of our government illegally and unlawfully took over that sovereign government that was ruled by that time by Queen Lili'uokalani.

I want to share that bit of history with my colleagues, and especially and I sincerely hope that they will understand and appreciate the fact that the Native Hawaiian community does definitely need this program, and I urge my colleagues to please support this legislation.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), the author of this legislation, 4 minutes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, what remains for me is to express my gratitude to Mr. RENZI and also to Mr. KILDEE and the Native American Caucus for helping all of us to understand what the issues are here. And also, I want to reiterate my thanks to Mr. BOEHNER for his open-mindedness and his attitude of being willing to listen on issues that might otherwise have been easily misunderstood. I am grateful also to Mr. COLE of Oklahoma for his participation and for his leadership in again helping us to discern issues that are of distinct advantage, not just to our particular constituents in Hawaii, but on the whole issue of how we are able to help people achieve homeownership, achieve an opportunity not to be dependent on government, but rather to be able to participate in the American Dream, the overall American Dream in a way that has genuine meaning for them and their families.

I am very pleased to see that this has not become a partisan issue, and that it has not ended up dividing us when we should, in fact, be united in our opportunity to minimize the effect of government having bad consequences for people, and maximizing the opportunity for the ordinary individual and the ordinary individual's family to be able to advance the family's cause.

In this particular instance then, Mr. Speaker, I am very, very pleased that we are able to move forward on this, and I hope that the vote will be a solid one and that we can move forward to other issues not only where homeownership is concerned, but advancing the capacity of families to be able to succeed in the American Dream.

I would like to express my gratitude to the gentlelady from California, and express my thanks to her for the leadership of her and her committee in bringing this forward. Again, Mr. Speaker, before I close, my deep respect for and gratitude to Mr. RENZI and for all those who helped bring this forward on the Republican side of the aisle.

□ 1510

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how many minutes we have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlelady from California has 7½ minutes left.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me, first of all, thank the gentlelady for being so timely in her yielding, and to congratulate her as well for this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be allowed as well, as I compliment her overall on her commitment to housing, just to reflect on the last 2 days. This was a challenge, but it was the leadership of this Subcommittee on Financial Services that managed to get their

hands around what is confronting the gulf region, and particularly cities like Houston that are impacted by a large number of Hurricane Katrina survivors. And I just want to cite that, though I heard a good number of responses on the floor about how much, how long, and too much, frankly I am going to encourage all of the Members of this body to visit the gulf region and to recognize that no matter how much, too much and how long, they will see that people are still not settled, not in houses, and still are receiving eviction notices.

Homeownership is a viable part of our dreams. But, at the same time, we have to be the "fix it" people. And unfortunately, there was much debate on this floor that didn't understand that hurricane recovery for Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma and Rita had not yet occurred. Therefore, I hope that as we go forward and more bills may come to the floor on dealing with Hurricane Katrina, we will be sensitive that this is one of the largest evacuations in the history of America, and that we must continue our work. And so for that reason, I support the underlying bill.

But, likewise, I hope that we will have a heart and recognize that we are, in fact, our brothers' and sisters' keeper, and that we will take some time to understand that we are still healing, we are still repairing, and we are still helping.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker and Members, I thank the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE). She had been very passionate about what we were doing on the last legislation, and she took this opportunity, not only in support of this legislation, but to add some remarks for the record on behalf of the people of Houston, and I appreciate that.

Let me just say that I want to thank the chairman, Mr. FRANK, for helping to focus our agenda in my subcommittee and in our overall committee, dealing with these very important housing issues, many of them that have been left unattended for far too long.

I want to thank Mr. RENZI for his attention to housing not only for Hawaiian Native Americans, but for Native Americans in Arizona where I had the opportunity to visit with him, where he is doing an awful lot for housing.

And so I am very pleased and proud about our Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, about the overall committee, and the way that we have been able to move so quickly and to have an agenda that we could bring to this floor on behalf of people who need us desperately, housing crises that exist not only in Hawaii but in other parts of the United States. And this is a representation of the work that we will be doing on this issue.

I know, again, that Mr. ABERCROMBIE has been working very hard. Ms. HIRONO came here with this on her agenda, and I just thank them all for

being here on the floor with us this afternoon, and helping people to understand how appreciative they are for our help.

I would like to say that in addition to the work that he has done, he has invited many of us on more than one occasion not only to visit, but to understand that it is not just simply a beautiful island where people come to vacation. There are people who live there. There are people who work there. There are people who need our assistance, people who have been without housing that they can afford for a long time.

And so, again, the work not only of our chairman and the members of my subcommittee, but the cooperation that we have had on the opposite side of the aisle, led by Mr. RENZI, is what gets us to this point today.

And I would urge all of my colleagues to please support this legislation. It is so important.

Mr. FALCOMA VEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 835, the Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2007. I want to commend my good friend, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, for introducing this bill in the House of Representatives to reauthorize the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant through 2012. I commend the gentleman for his hard work and his leadership in helping our Hawaiian community in both his district and in all the U.S. I also want to commend Ms. HIRONO of Hawaii as one of the original cosponsors of this bill and particularly Chairman FRANK of Massachusetts of the esteemed Committee on Financial Services for his diligence in moving this legislation. I would also be remiss if I did not recognize Chairwoman WATERS of California of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity of the Financial Services Committee for her contributions to this important bill and as a stalwart on national housing issues.

Mr. Speaker, this important piece of legislation will reauthorize important funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant until 2012. In 1996, Congress passed the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act without any specific provisions addressing Native Hawaiian communities. However, in 2000, Congress in a bipartisan effort amended the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act by including Title VIII, creating the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant.

This program is vital for the Native Hawaiian families with low-incomes by providing grants to assist with affordable housing and it would also guarantee loans for those residing on Hawaiian Home Lands that were set aside by Congress in 1921 with the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. These Native Hawaiians are disqualified because of their unique status living on these Home Lands. Today, there are more than 495,000 Native Hawaiians in all of the U.S. making them the largest indigenous group in America. It is only fitting that we continue to support such programs to address such essential needs.

As a former resident of the state of Hawaii, I can bare witness of the benefits and the impact this program has achieved throughout the state. There is a national stereotype of Hawaii

as the islands with vast beautiful beaches and a remote vacation site but we fail to see the other side of Hawaii. With the growth in tourism and the rise in cost-of-living, Native Hawaiians have not been able to establish regular income to afford the high cost in housing within the state.

This legislation gives Native Hawaiians the opportunities for home ownership and will likely provide for more low-income families without making significant increases in federal appropriations. Mr. Speaker, with the support of the Native American Caucus, the Native American Indian Housing Council and Governor Linda Lingle of Hawaii, I am hopeful that we pass H.R. 835 today. I humbly request that my fellow colleagues support and pass H.R. 835 and again I thank my good friend from Hawaii for introducing this important legislation.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 835.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

JOSHUA OMVIG VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION ACT

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 327) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a comprehensive program designed to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 327

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) suicide among veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (in this section referred to as "PTSD") is a serious problem; and

(2) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should take into consideration the special needs of veterans suffering from PTSD and the special needs of elderly veterans who are at high risk for depression and experience high rates of suicide in developing and implementing the comprehensive program under this Act.

SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AMONG VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AMONG VETERANS.—Chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section: